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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1067
By Rinks

A RESOLUTION to recognize Representative Matthew H. Kisber
on his meritorious service as a member of the
General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those fellow legislators who have performed their elected duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented devotion and whose efforts have brought substantial benefits to their respective communities and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Matthew H. Kisber's illustrious career in the House of Representatives will come to an end at the adjournment sine die of the 2002 Session of the 102nd General Assembly, as he has announced his retirement from this august Body; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Chairman Kisber has been a prominent and highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of Jackson and Madison County, and he has served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the good people of House District 73 evinced their great faith in the political and governmental capabilities of Matt Kisber by electing him as their Representative to the General Assembly, a position in which he has performed admirably; and

WHEREAS, the youngest member of the 93rd and 94th General Assemblies, Representative Kisber was the sole Freshman member appointed to an important tax reform committee, the Special Joint Legislative Task Force on State and Local Tax Structure in 1983; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, he was appointed to serve as Secretary to the House Calendar and Rules Committee; and

WHEREAS, during his ten terms and twenty years in the House of Representatives, Matt Kisber has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Kisber is a dynamic and aggressive participant in the legislative process, and he has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for the outstanding contributions he has made to the legislative process via the Finance, Ways and Means Committee, which he has served adroitly as Chairman for the past six years; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Kisber is often called upon by public and private interests to put his unique combination of business, politics, and government experience and skills to work; he has tackled some of the most complex financial and policy concerns in Tennessee and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, over the past twenty years, Representative Kisber has received state and national acclaim for his leadership in developing innovative solutions to a wide range of budgetary and business development changes; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Matt Kisber was appointed to serve as Co-Chairman of an Executive Task Force of the National Council of State Legislatures, which shapes policy to assist states and local governments in the taxation of telecommunications and electronic commerce; under his leadership, the Task Force has adopted a precedent-setting governing structure that allows states to model legislation after the Uniform Sales and Use Tax Administration Act and the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement; and

WHEREAS, he also serves as Co-Chairman of the Implementing States Efforts Toward a Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference and the National Conference of State Legislatures, Representative Kisber is a frequent speaker at regional and national meetings on the topics of state finances and tax issues; and

WHEREAS, as Vice President of Business Development for First Tennessee Bank, Matt Kisber is involved in recruiting new business relationships and in expanding relationships for the \$18 billion financial institution; and

WHEREAS, prior to his career at First Tennessee Bank, Matthew Kisber owned and operated a number of successful small businesses in Jackson; he was first exposed to business when he began working at Kisber's Department Stores, Inc., his family's business, at the age of twelve; he then went to work as a photojournalist for the *Jackson Sun*, covering politics and other interests; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, he graduated from Vanderbilt University with a Bachelor of Arts degree; he was one of thirty-six state legislators from twenty-one states to successfully complete the inaugural Program for Emerging Political Leaders at the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Representative Kisber received a full scholarship from the Southern Legislative Conference to attend the Leadership Development Program conducted by the Center for Creative Leadership, and, later that year, he was selected as one of thirty-two state leaders to attend a Toll Fellowship Program sponsored by the Council of State Governments; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges of citizenship, Representative Kisber has served as a member of many community, civic, and statewide organizations, including meritorious service on the Board of Directors of the

Tennessee Holocaust Commission, Tennessee Tomorrow, Inc., the WestStar Leadership Program, the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, and the Tennessee State Museum Foundation; and

WHEREAS, he currently serves as a member of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce and the Vanderbilt University Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Matthew Kisber is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Paige Lowe Kisber; together, they are the proud parents of a son, Harrison; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Kisber's announcement of his retirement from the General Assembly has greatly disappointed and disconcerted his fellow lawmakers, Democrats and Republicans alike, and his considerable talents and energies will be sorely missed by the good people of House District 73; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Kisber's retirement creates a void that will not easily be filled, as we shall greatly miss his honesty and integrity in matters both legislative and personal, his stalwart dedication to the health and welfare of his constituents and, indeed, all Tennesseans, and his singular ability as a legislator; and

WHEREAS, this Body finds it appropriate to bid farewell to our trusted friend and colleague, Representative Matthew H. Kisber; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Representative Matthew H. Kisber on twenty years of meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of Jackson, Madison County and Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to Chairman Kisber our best wishes for much success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Representative Kisber as a token of our esteem.